

# THE PAG-ASA NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-MARCH 2021

## THREE PHILIPPINE EAGLES RESCUED

Three Philippine eagles were admitted for rehabilitation and care at the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) during the first quarter of 2021.

Eagle "Salagbanog" was rescued in January 8, 2021 from Maitum town, Sarangani Province. This male, immature bird (3-5 yrs old) was saved by locals while it was entangled in thorny vines near Salagbanog Falls. The bird was physically ok, but x-ray showed a marble (jolen) lodged on its right shoulder, and an airgun pellet close to its right collarbone. The marble was safely removed through surgery.



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CROWDFUNDING  
FOR PHILIPPINE  
EAGLE SALAGBANOG



The second eagle was a 2-month-old chick that was removed by a local from its nest in San Fernando Bukidnon on February 24, 2021. After admission at the PEC, The bird underwent puppet-rearing to raise it properly and behave like a true eagle. It is now caged close to another captive eagle as part of a "mentoring" procedure to fully imprint it to its kind.



The third eagle is "Rajah Cabungso-an" – the first adult eagle to be rescued during the pandemic period. The bird was admitted last March 26, two days after it was accidentally caught in a native trap along the Davao Oriental and Surigao del Sur forest boundary. A concerned citizen bought it for Php 5,000.00 (US \$ 104.00) to spare it from getting cooked. The bird has recovered and is being readied for future release.



## SECURING PHILIPPINE EAGLE "SINABADAN"

"Sinabadan" is a female eagle that hatched in 2013 at the forests of Mt Apo in Davao City. Seven years later, the now fully adult eagle shas settled at the heart of Mt Tangkulan in San Fernando, Bukidnon. To keep her safe and monitor her journey, we collaborated with local partners (DENR, LGU San Fernando, Indigenous communities) and implemented education, advocacy, local capacity building and research.



In January 2021, our education outreach covered six barangays and benefitted over 500 participants. We also trained and provided gears to 20 Indigenous Manobo Tigwahanon forest guards, and they assisted in monitoring and trapping eagle Sinabadan.

The team undertook a field expedition to re-trap Sinabadan and replace her old GPS-GSM transmitter with a fresh unit in February-March. But the eagle was very trap-shy. We will employ new trapping techniques and resume fieldwork in May, 2021.



## PHILIPPINE EAGLES AND OTHER ANIMALS AT THE PEC

**115** Animals maintained as of March 31, 2021

**6** Wildlife submissions

**1** Mortality

**3** Wildlife retrievals

**2** Philippine Eagle releases



### ALI DAVAO CARON FOREST RESTORATION WORK AND UN WILDLIFE WEEK CELEBRATION

We're off to a great start this year! We have steadily made progress in our planting and maintenance work at the Ali-Davao Carbon Forest (ADCF) through the efforts of our tireless staff and volunteers. Over 2,500 seedlings were planted on different plots within the reforestation site including new and replacement trees.

Our nursery has also added 1,575 seedlings both propagated and collected from the wild to its planting stock. Maintenance work like weeding and strip brushing were focused on CF Plots 1, 3, and 6 where planting and integration were done.

For this year's WildLIFE IS HERE celebrations, we featured three remnant forest patches. The Clearnergy Park in Punta Dumalag is a coastal ecological preserve for birds and marine animals and one of the last few nesting grounds of the critically endangered Hawksbill Sea Turtle. The Mt. Sinaka Carbon Forest in Arakan, North Cotabato is a Key Biodiversity Area and Critical Habitat of the critically endangered Philippine Eagle. Finally, the ALI Davao Carbon Forest in Bago Gallera is a vast woodland area in the heart of Davao City. It serves as a watershed, airshed, carbon sink, and urban wildlife sanctuary.

We invited several experts to lead a virtual tour of the flora and fauna of Carbon Forest. The guest speakers included Adri and Trinket Constantino of Birding Philippines and The Ateneo Wild for the birds, Anthony Arbias of PNPCI for the trees, and Dr. Ann Cabras and Dr. Milton Medina of the Coleoptera Research Center for the beetles.



In line with the event, our crowdfunding campaign for March was dedicated in raising funds to grow trees in the ALI Davao Carbon Forest through its Virtual Volunteer program. Anyone from anywhere can have a tree planted by donating P500. Our reforestation champion, the Philippine Eagle Youth Council, with the support of Memo-Plus Gold, Penong's, Pflanzenol, and over 80 individuals successfully raised money to sponsor 369 trees.

As of March, we have a total of 389 trees that are funded from planting to maintenance for six months.

WildLIFE is Here 2021 was co-presented by the DENR Region XI, Whitley Fund for Nature, and AboitizPower. And in partnership with the Municipality of Arakan, the Australian Embassy, AyalaLand, Inc., and the University of Mindanao.



## PROJECT MT. SINAKA

To recommence the initiative on coping with the pandemic and empowering women through digital inclusion, the Philippine Eagle Foundation, in partnership with PLDT Inc. has strongly demonstrated how investing and empowering women and girls can create positive change in the communities where they belong. The project includes capacitating and assisting women parents as they facilitate home-based teaching for modular learning on kids during the pandemic.

The project aimed to conduct the sessions on three barangays in Arakan namely Salasang, Tumanding, and Ganatan. A number of women parents benefitted from the parent-facilitated learning. Furthermore, there are also volunteer retired teacher who put forward and extended time and talent to help us carry the mission. Our women and girls are the foremost steward of children and elders in every country of the world. When an economy of the system organization of a society switch, women take the lead in helping the family adjust to new realities and challenges.



## NURSERY ESTABLISHMENT AND REFORESTATION

Twenty-nine members of the Kaguko-Paraiso-Pormon Environmental Conservation Association (KPP-ECA) participated in the wildling collection and were able to collect a total 10,775 wildlings from the foot of Mt. Sinaka. Overall, a total of 24,775 wildlings were cared for at the KPP-ECA nurseries. In addition, two flat chambers and two nursery group was added to the existing ones beginning 2021. As of May 2021, a total of 18,086 wildlings have survived and out of these surviving wildlings, 12,500 seedlings were already planted at restoration plots in the watershed, while 1,800 seedlings were planted at the new Sinaka Carbon Forest.

Indeed, PEF's and KPP-ECA's partnership with AusAid-DAP gave KPP-ECA the experience and track record in effective community-based conservation. Now, the community is getting additional help and support from organizations such as LGU Arakan, PLDT, TDCX, and CFCST.







## CONSERVATION EDUCATION IN THE NEW NORMAL

Three months in after the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) re-opened and we are far from recovering our losses not only in resources but also in foot traffic. With the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, quarantine restrictions limit the public's movement and make many wary in visiting establishments like the PEC.

## NO OTHER OPTION

Unlike our other education initiatives that can be done online, there is no such alternative for our upland education campaigns that need to be conducted in far flung areas where even a cellphone signal is nil. As such, our Education Officers and other field staff strictly implement standard health protocols to carry out our campaigns in eagle nest territories.

For instance, in preparation for the release of Philippine Eagle Tagyaman Fernando in San Fernando, Bukidnon, we conducted a two-day Conservation Education and Public Awareness campaign across three sitios in Barangays Namnam and Magkalungay reaching over 270 locals. Wearing of masks, social distancing, and no direct physical contact were paramount for everyone's safety.



## FROM CINEMAS AND THE PEC TO VIMEO AND ZOOM

We needed to create other opportunities to reach the PEC audience that we lost. This meant adapting our PEC educational activities online. The Philippine Eagle documentary "Bird of Prey" of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology continue to be a relevant material in our education initiatives. With the following that the film gained in its screenings in cinemas nationwide in 2019, its alternative screenings via Vimeo are still well received. From January to March, we had 10 screenings with a total of 4,806 views.



The Cornell Lab  
of Ornithology

Forest  
Foundation  
Philippines



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Philippine Eagle Center, Malagos, Baguio District, Davao City, Philippines 8018



Aside from the Bird of Prey online screenings, we also created a virtual version of our “Open Classroom Project” called “Learn with Malaya” (LWM) and moving it from the PEC as the open classroom to the safer virtual alternative Zoom. We conduct LWM as a supplemental program to Grades 3 to 6 online Science classes with topics based on DepEd’s Revised Basic Education Curriculum (RBEC). We facilitated nine sessions of LWM in the first quarter. Most of the beneficiary schools of the program are within the focal landscapes of our partner Forest Foundation Philippines which are Sierra Madre, Calabarzon, Samar, Leyte and Misamis.

We also integrated LWM with two of our Philippine Eagle Hatchday celebrations. LWM was the highlight of Mabuhay’s 8th hatchday last February 9. Through the sponsorship of her anonymous adopter, 40 Grade 3 students benefited from the program. Aboitiz Power Corporation also sponsored an LWM session for another batch of 40 third graders to celebrate their adopted Philippine Eagle Pangarap’s 22nd hatchday last February 23.

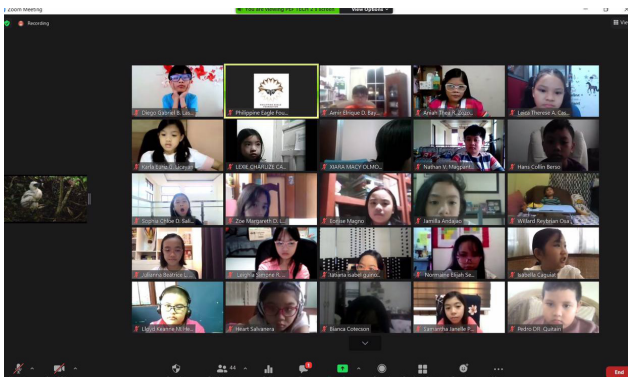


## VOLUNTEERISM IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

With health and safety as our priority, we scaled down our volunteer activities by making sure that they can be conducted in observance of the standard health protocols. These activities are now limited to online and open spaces such as the PEC weekend clean-up by Alpha Phi Omega Lambda Nu – UP Mindanao Chapter and the Carbon Warrior Volunteer Program for the ALI Davao Carbon Forest. The program was launched in March and was the highlight of our WildLIFE is Here online event in line with the global celebration of the UN Wildlife Day every March 3.

We created three different volunteer opportunities considering safety and convenience. One is the Virtual Volunteer program in which the volunteer sponsors a single tree’s planting and maintenance for six months. This gives the public an opportunity to remotely participate in carbon offsetting.

Another is the Voluntourist program that offers experience in Nursery Care, Plant Care & Maintenance, and actual Tree Planting of their sponsored wildling. This is ideal for those who are interested to be part of a reforestation project but could not commit to long-term volunteer work. Finally, the Regular Volunteer program that lets participants contribute their time and skills at the Carbon Forest. They can come in groups or as individuals with a set goal of achieving the weekly and monthly targets at the site. This program is implemented in limited capacity on site to keep large groups from converging.





## AN OUTPOUR OF SUPPORT FOR A RESCUED PHILIPPINE EAGLE

Within just the first quarter of 2021, our Philippine Eagle rescue cases have gone up to 10 since April 2020. This unprecedented spike is the highest in a year since 2001. Under a normal circumstance, rescuing eagles is daunting. Even more so in the “new normal” with our depleting resources and the challenges in our fieldwork logistics and mobility.

The more eagles that need rescuing, the more funds are needed to deploy our emergency response team of veterinarian and biologists and to rehabilitate the eagle at the Philippine Eagle Center which could take at least a month. But it does not end there. Once the eagle is in our custody, we need to assess whether it is fit to be released back in the wild or not. Either way, resources are needed.



Fortunately, many like you are receptive to help save the Philippine Eagle that in just two months, we raised Php 627,222.31 for the benefit of another rescued eagle.

The eagle is estimated to be 3 to 4 years old and weighed a little over 4 kgs which highly suggests that it is male.

He was retrieved last January 8 in Barangay Ticulab, Sarangani after it was accidentally entangled in rattan vines while hunting for prey near the Salagbanog Falls.

With the funds raised, we can provide the eagle ample medical attention and proper nutrition for a full recovery and safety while he is away from his forest home.





## FLY HIGH, PAG-ASA!

Our year began with the passing of our beloved Philippine Eagle Pag-asa. Pag-asa succumbed to infections associated with Trichomoniasis and Aspergillosis. Both diseases are fatal for raptors. Although treatment was done for over a week, his health deteriorated quickly and died at 8:03 PM on January 6. He was 28 years old.

Pag-asa was hatched on January 15, 1992. He was the first-ever Philippine Eagle bred and hatched in captivity using the cooperative artificial insemination (CAI) technique. Pag-asa's hatching is the culmination of 14 years-worth of research and hard work.

It heralded hope for the critically endangered species and the conservation mission as a whole.

Twenty-one years later, we reached yet another milestone with Pag-asa when he succeeded as a semen donor that led to the hatching of his first and only offspring Mabuhay. Like Pag-asa, she was also bred through CAI. Even after Pag-asa retired from breeding, he lived his life as an icon of hope for the Filipino people. For us who are in the frontline of saving the eagles, he reminded us of what we can accomplish when we persevere amid challenges.

We sorely miss Pag-asa, but in every step we take in saving his species, his legacy lives on.



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PANGARAP



LOURDES



ARIELA



PIN-PIN



MINDANAO



KAIBIGAN



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VIGGO



MAGINOO



ENCHANTING  
KAGITINGAN



GEO THERMICA



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MARIKIT



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MABUHAY

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